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MUSI 407.01: Counterpoint I

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Counterpoint MUSI 407
University of Montana

Dr. Emilie LeBel

emilie.lebel@umontana.edu

Office: Room 203

Office hours: Mondays 9am to 10am; Wednesday and Friday mornings, by appointment

Class times: By appointment

Course description:

This course explores the craft of counterpoint through the study of Bach and tonal counterpoint; the arrangement and creation of musical works; and the study of repertoire from the past century. Students will gain knowledge of a broad range of repertoire, aesthetics, and counterpoint techniques.

Course Objectives:

- To understand the fundamentals of counterpoint techniques and tonal counterpoint
- To develop an understanding of how contemporary composers employ counterpoint techniques
- To develop knowledge of a broad range of art music repertoire
- To gain experience thinking critically about music
- To gain experience effectively communicating concepts in music

Required materials:

- Manuscript paper, pencils, eraser, and a ruler
- Listening assignments, readings, and additional materials will be posted on-line or handed out during class

General expectations:

- Regular attendance and active participation in weekly class activities
- All assignments are to be handed-in on their due date at the beginning of class
- Reviewing any listening and reading assignments that are assigned, so that you are able to participate in class discussions and activities
- Please check your email regularly for updates / communications
- Attendance at concerts and special events related to the composition program is **mandatory** (see course schedule and take note of dates)

Evaluation:

30% Project #1 Analysis

30% Project #2 Analysis

40% Project #3 Arrangements

Assignments:

- Written descriptions for each project will be distributed and discussed during class in the coming weeks

Assignment submission:

- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on their due date, or they are considered late (no exceptions!)

- Late projects will be subject to a penalty of 2% per day (or partial day) of the week (including weekends)
- All compositions are to be neatly hand written using a ruler and a sharp pencil on manuscript paper, single-sided
- All written components of assignments are to be typed

Laptop policy:

I do not permit the use of laptop computers, cell phones, tablets, etc. during the lecture and discussion portions of the class. Our department is very interested in technology and its artistic and academic applications, but laptops are not appropriate for taking notes in this class, and we wish to avoid the potential for distraction to both laptop users and nearby students. Additionally, students may not use cellular phones during class. If you disrupt class by using these devices, you will be asked to leave class for the day.

Academic honesty:

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the “Student Conduct Code” available here: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

We take violations very seriously and they will be noted on student disciplinary records. We will not tolerate any dishonesty or plagiarism. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with me before you complete any relevant requirements of the course.

Disability services:

If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable program modifications in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program modifications. If you are already working with Disability Services arrange to meet with me during my office hours to discuss reasonable modifications that may be necessary. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.